



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

nal vesicle communicates with the exterior. Present in *Nepheleis*. In *Clepsine* it is equivalent to the terminal vesicle.

The cells formerly called Chloragogen cells, should now be called *Exeretophores*. A preliminary about these cells has been sent to the "Zoologischer Anzeiger." The investigation had been carried out mainly on living tissues, and every source of error had been eliminated.

—BASHFORD DEAN, *Secretary*.

SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

John A. Ryder, Professor of Histology and Embryology in the School of Biology of the University of Pennsylvania, died on March 26th. He was born in 1852 near Linden in Franklin Co., Pennsylvania, of old "Pennsylvania German" stock, and displayed a strong predilection as a small boy for the study of nature. At school he was persistent in the pursuit of his favorite subject, and took little part in the sports and quarrels of the boys with whom he was associated. His sensitiveness to their criticisms was such that he ran away from school, only to devote himself more fully to study. He came to Philadelphia and was soon deep in microscopic work. At that time the methods of preparation of objects for the microscope were not as well understood as they have since become, and Ryder invented most of the methods which he used in his first researches. His studies of the embryology of fishes led to his appointment on the U. S. Fish Commission, where he published a number of important papers on the embryology of fishes and mollusca, and among the latter, the oyster was an especial object of investigation. In 1886 he was appointed to the position which he held at the time of his death. Professor Ryder was an indefatigable investigator, and his published papers, though numerous, give little idea of his activity. He has left behind him manuscript of considerable importance, which it is to be hoped will be published with the aid of a worthy editor. He was for a considerable time editor of the department of embryology of the *American Naturalist*.

Besides excellent powers of observation, Professor Ryder had a mind naturally capable of comprehending mechanics. He patented several inventions of economic value. This tendency is to be seen especially in his application of mechanics to the problems of evolution, in which he presented many original ideas. He was a strong supporter of the Neolamarkian school; and he carried this hypothesis into the explanation of histogenesis with more success than any American,

and he had few if any equals in Europe. At the same time he cannot be said to have had a very systematic mind. He was an excellent delineator of natural objects. Personally, he was a most amiable man, and he endeared himself to his colleagues and pupils. He leaves a widow.

Dr. William S. W. Ruschenberger died March 25th, 1895, in his 88th year. He was born in Cumberland County, New Jersey, September 4, 1807. After receiving an academic education in Philadelphia and New York schools, he entered the medical service of the United States navy as a surgeon's mate, August 10, 1826.

His medical tutors were Dr. J. P. Hopkinson and Dr. Nathaniel Chapman, of the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania, from which he received the degree of Doctor of Medicine in March, 1830. He was commissioned a surgeon in the navy April 4, 1831, and from 1835 to 1837 was Fleet Surgeon to the East India Squadron, with which he circumnavigated the globe. In 1840-42 Dr. Ruschenberger was attached to the naval rendezvous in Philadelphia. From 1843 he was Superintendent of the United States Naval Hospital at Brooklyn, and during his term of service there organized the Naval Laboratory, for supplying the service with pure drugs. He was again Fleet Surgeon of the East India Squadron from 1847 to 1850, Fleet Surgeon of the Pacific Squadron from 1854 to 1857, and of the Mediterranean Squadron from August, 1860, to July, 1861, having served in the intervals between cruises at Philadelphia.

During the civil war Dr. Ruschenberger was surgeon of the Boston Navy Yard. From 1865 to 1870 he was on duty in Philadelphia. From 1866 to the time of his retirement, September 4, 1869, he was the senior officer in the Medical Corps, and March 3, 1871, he was commissioned Medical Director on the retired list, with the relative rank of Commodore.

Dr. Ruschenberger was for several years President of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. His long service as an officer in the navy did not, however, qualify him for corresponding positions in civil life. His habit of enforcing technical discipline was offset by a courteous and affable bearing. He wrote several books describing his travels, and a primary school-book of Natural History, which was the first one of the kind in the country, and was of considerable service to men now in middle life.

The Laboratory at Cold Spring Harbor.—The laboratory has experienced some difficulty in the past years in properly accommodating

its students with lodging places. For this reason the need of a dormitory has been seriously felt for the last two years. The Wawepex Society has recently decided to erect such a dormitory and this building will be begun and finished during the coming spring, so as to be in condition for use during the coming session of 1895. The attempt will be made to furnish comfortable rooms to students at a very nominal price.—H. W. CONN.

The Biological Survey of Indiana.—Special efforts are now being made to make a Biological Survey of the state, the object being: (1) To ascertain the character and extent of the life of the state. (2) To associate the various workers throughout the state so that they all may labor toward the same end. (3) To stimulate the teachers of biology to encourage in their students the accumulation of material. (4) To secure for the Academy a collection that will illustrate the biology of the state.

Three directors have general charge of this work. Prof. Underwood in charge of the botanical division made a very encouraging report of the work in that field. The other directors made no report.

The Academy took an advance step in arranging matters to ask the state legislature to publish its Proceedings. Heretofore, the Academy has had to meet this expense.

The Spring meeting of the Academy will be held at the Wyandotte Cave in Crawford County.—A. J. BIGNEY, *Asst. Sec.*

Summer Course at the University of Pennsylvania.—The Department of Biology, in the Summer Meeting of 1895, will be under the immediate direction of Dr. William P. Wilson, Professor of Botany in the University of Pennsylvania, and Director of the newly established Philadelphia Museums. The lectures and laboratory work of the courses in the Biological Department have been arranged with a view to the needs of teachers in general, and of the teachers of Philadelphia in particular. They will aim to suggest much new material for study in the school-room, to give information concerning it, the best and most modern methods of using it for nature study, and also such technical training in the use of the microscope, etc., as will enable those who complete the course to continue their work in the University. The lectures in the various courses will be fully illustrated by natural objects, charts, diagrams, and by lantern.

The courses will be elementary, and no special preparation on the part of the student will be pre-supposed. Advanced instruction will

be given for those who are ready for it. There will be lectures and laboratory work amounting to about five and a half hours per day during the entire month.

The laboratories and equipment of the University are placed fully at the disposal of the department, for the use of students. The tuition fee in the Department of Biology is ten dollars, with a special laboratory fee of two dollars. Unusually good facilities are thus afforded at a merely nominal cost.

The instruction will consist of three five-lecture courses in Botany, by Professor Macfarlane, Professor Halsted and Professor Wilson; two five-lecture courses in Zoology, by Professor Cope and Professor Ryder's successor; lectures on special topics by eminent biologists; thirty hours laboratory practice in Biology, and five lectures by Mrs. Wilson on Biology from the standpoint of teachers in the elementary schools.

Among the lectures on special topics are: Professor Liberty H. Bailey, of Cornell University, who will deliver two lectures on "How Garden Varieties Originate: a Study in Evolution;" Professor George L. Goodale, of Harvard University, who will deliver an address before the students of all departments on "The Relations of Certain Plants to Political Economy;" Professor Byron D. Halsted, of Rutgers College, whose lectures are outlined below, and Professor Charles O. Whitman, of the University of Chicago.

A new scientific society has been organized in the Jardin des Plantes, which will hold its meetings the last Thursday of each month. It is composed of the scientific personnel of the Museum and has for an aim to bring about a knowledge and a cordial interest in each other's work. It is thought that the discussion of papers presented to the society from various points of view of specialists, in the different fields of biology, will be both interesting and profitable. (*Revue Scientifique*, Feb. 1895.)

The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia have voted the Hayden medal to Professor G. A. Daubrée, member of the Académie des Sciences in Paris, and Professor of Mineralogy in the École des Mines. Prof. Daubrée's researches into the intricate causes of crystalline structure are important contributions to scientific knowledge as are also his expositions of experimental geology.

The Belgian Academy of Science in Brussels has offered prizes to the value of six hundred francs for the best treatise on one of the following subjects: (1) Researches on the number of chromosomes, be-

fore fertilization, in an animal or a plant. (2) New researches on the Quaternary flora, especially on peat-mosses. (3) Is there a nucleus in Schizophytes? If so, what is its structure and the mode of its division? The author must give a critical résumé of all work hitherto published on this subject. Treatises should be written in French or Flemish, and sent with motto and sealed name to Chev. Edm. Marchal, Secretary of the Academy, before August 1, 1895.

Erratum to be made in "An Abnormal *Pes* of *Columbia livia*," by S. D. Judd, "*AMERICAN NATURALIST*," Jan. '95. Plate VI. The left of the two upper drawings was published by mistake, the right of these two drawings should have been labeled "Fig. 2." The remaining skeleton drawing should have been labeled "Fig. 1." Of the two drawings representing feet in toto, the one to the left of the page should have been labeled "Fig. 4," the other "Fig. 3." Explanation of Figures. For Plate I read Plate VI. For XI read times 1=natural size.

List of Errata in Article, Insanity in Royal Families, American Naturalist, February, 1895.—P. 119, lines 14–15, for more direct read *direr*; P. 119, line 25, for *jealously* read *jealousy*; P. 119, line 33, for *May* read *Mary*; P. 120, line 2, for *and* read *in*; P. 120, line 34, for *the* read *his*; P. 120, line 34, for *to*, read *of*; P. 122, line 6, for *brother* read *father*; P. 124, line 23, for *goes*, read *exists*; P. 129, line 17, leave out comma after *at*.

Erratum.—In No. 329, May, 1894, on p. 439, first line, read *Otto Maas* in place of *Otto Wass*.